

25 October 1963

The Honorable Roswell L. Gilpatric  
Deputy Secretary of Defense  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Ros:

This replies to your letter of 2 October concerning the National Photographic Interpretation Center with particular reference to its wartime role.

I am currently engaged in a full-scale review of emergency and war plans as they apply to the intelligence community and more specifically to the Central Intelligence Agency. This study is directed at a more careful delineation of responsibilities in the event of hostilities to include varying conditions of national emergency short of war, limited war, and full-scale or general war. The study should be completed by the end of this year.

As you know, there already exist command relationship agreements with the Joint Chiefs of Staff for the phasing into the military commands certain Central Intelligence Agency operating assets overseas upon the commencement of hostilities in command areas. In the broader field of collection, analysis, and production of finished intelligence for policy-makers, especially at the Washington level, my specific views may be influenced by the results of the study now being prepared for me. While I would envisage, of course, a continuing close relationship within the intelligence community, and with particular responsiveness to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in wartime, I do not foresee any change in the statutory responsibilities of the Director of Central Intelligence or the Central Intelligence Agency in this regard.

I will be in touch with you at a later date on this entire matter when I have determined to my own satisfaction just what the arrangements should be for the intelligence community at the national level.

Sincerely,

/s/ John

John A. McCone  
Director

TS #188384/A

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